



Visiting Balad

Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, U.S. Central Command Air Force commander, received a briefing from Tech. Sgt. John White while Staff Sgt. Lindsay Webster and Tech. Sgt. Richard Barr observe. The sergeants are from the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron. General Buchanan visited Balad Sept. 15.

New AEF rotation arrives at Balad

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Like seasons change, the Airmen supporting air expeditionary force rotations seven and eight have arrived here allowing those who supported AEF five and six to return to their loved ones.

"Airmen from AEF five and six did a great job for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing because every Airman knew the wing mission and they did the job to the best of their ability," said Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander. "The mission is clear, ***Combat Air Power For America ... Right Here, Right Now!***" Your task is simple ... do the very best job you can do everyday."

The new Airmen have arrived to a wing with a long combat history. The 332nd AEW takes its name from the 332nd Fighter Group, which was first activated July 4, 1942.

The 332nd AEW traces its lineage back to Tuskegee Army Air Field, Tuskegee Ala., where the first African-American Airmen trained to become single-engine or multi-engine pilots. These Airmen came to be known as the Tuskegee Airmen, many of whom later served with

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Airmen honor POWs/MIAs



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'Triple Nickel' enters fight



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AF celebrates birthday



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Photos by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

Balad Airmen honor POWs/MIAs

(Left) Airmen from the 322nd Air Expeditionary Wing Honor Guard fold an American flag during the POW/MIA Day ceremony at Town Hall.

(Above) The Balad Honor Guard pays honor render a salute to their fallen brethren during a POW/MIA ceremony.

(Right) Airman 1st Class Jared Bayer, 332nd AEW Honor Guard, bares the POW/MIA flag during the POW/MIA Day ceremony here Sept. 16.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
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The *Red Tail Flyer* is published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *Red Tail Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication. The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>



Photos by Maj. Robert Couse-Baker

Capt. Bart Wilbanks, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, and Senior Airman Gaylon Hardman, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, exchange salutes as Captain Wilbanks prepares to take off on a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Tuesday. Both Airmen are deployed from the 31st Fighter Wing Aviano Air Base, Italy.

Aviano's 'Triple Nickel' enters fight

By Maj. Robert Couse-Baker
332nd AEW Public Affairs

As the green logos of the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron replace the purple ones of the 510th EFS, Balad Air Base has neither missed a beat providing close air support to coalition forces combating the anti-Iraqi insurgency nor had any let up in enthusiasm for the mission.

"You'll not find a single person in the squadron who is not fired up to be here," said Capt. Jason Charrier, F-16 pilot with the 555th EFS. "This is what we worked for; this is our chance to shine."

In addition to many highly experienced fighter pilots, most of the same maintenance and operation support personnel who work with the "Triple Nickel" F-16s back home at Aviano have also deployed here.

"Virtually the entire squadron is here and working together," he said. "This deployment is running like a well-oiled machine."

Captain Charrier also credits good continuity from their predecessors here, the 510th EFS, which had deployed here from Aviano Air Base on the previous rotation.

The challenge of operating in a combat environment has further increased the motivation of the troops, said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Laser, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent.

"Being here in Iraq helps make it feel a bit more real ... why we do what we do," he said.

"We were pleasantly surprised with the food and living conditions," said Maj. Aaron "Musket" Lade, 555th EFS C-Flight commander. "The support has been super; we have everything we need."

Best of all, Major Lade said, was the quality of the work.



Capt. Bart Wilbanks, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, climbs aboard an F-16C in preparation for a flight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Tuesday.

"We can't complain about the action: we're executing what we've trained for," he said.

(Editors note: The 555th EFS is one of two F-16 squadrons operating at here. The other squadron, will be the topic of a future story in the Red Tail Flyer.)

AF photographers document history

By Tech. Sgt. **Melissa Phillips**
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq -- Base photographers here are proving that a picture is truly worth a thousand words in fighting the war on terror.

"Our images tell the military story to the American public, our children and their children, and beyond," said Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron multimedia center manager and still photographer.

"Military photographers have had a tremendous impact on history and document the horrors of war," Sergeant Hessel said.

In an age where information can be accessed instantaneously, one image can change public opinion overnight.

"The men and women of the U.S. military are considered heroes in the eyes of most Americans, and I believe military photographers have played a role in that view," Sergeant Hessel said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class **Jamie Shultz**

Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, photographs a security mission outside the Ali Base gate.

Considering themselves observers to history, base photographers here have captured images of Iraqi citizens and Air

Force Airmen meeting each other.

"I like knowing what I see is what someone else will see and maybe have a better understanding that not all of the locals hate us or want to bomb us," said Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz, 407th ECS BMC still photographer.

The photographers have to strike a delicate balance: remain an objective observer to history, yet act as a conduit of emotion to portray humanity occurring.

Their photos do not just adorn walls for aesthetic reasons. They can also impact the shape of Airmen's work environment.

"The battlefield commanders and the secretary of defense use our imagery as a decision-making tool for critical operational assessment," Sergeant Hessel said.

Documenting Air Force people and the mission is a privilege and responsibility Sergeant Hessel does not take lightly.

"It's pretty cool that my images will outlive me and my children," Sergeant Hessel said.



Photos by Airman 1st Class **Chad Watkins**

AF celebrates 58th birthday

(Above) Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, is served a slice of Air Force Birthday cake by Senior Master Sgt. Charles Elmore, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron.

(Right) Master Sgt. Hayden Pickett, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces, gives a piece of cake to Master Sgt. Geri Smith, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, during the celebrations for the 58th Air Force Birthday Sunday.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Staff Sgt. Christi Laliberty, Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, checks the vital signs of Army Staff Sgt. Atum Amandla. Sergeant Laliberty is deployed to Balad Air Base in support of air expeditionary force seven and eight.

AEF, from Page 1

the 332nd FG. During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen flew 11,000 combat sorties destroying 111 enemy aircraft without losing any bombers.

The 332nd FG was reactivated as the 332nd AEW Jan. 30, 2004. Today, the 332nd AEW Airmen continue to uphold the values of excellence established by the 332nd FG as they help support the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

"Airmen serving at Balad should understand the historical significance of their presence here with the referendum on the new constitution and the impending election of the permanent Iraqi government," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd AEW command chief. "Those two things will definitely have a chilling effect on insurgency operations and will allow the Iraqis to finally take over the reins. By serving here you will see it and be part of it."

To help Iraq transition to democracy the Air Force's total force has been called upon. Balad's mission is accomplished by active-duty Airmen, Guard, Reserves, civilians and contractors from around the globe who work with Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and coalition service members.



Photo by Maj Robert Couse-Baker

Senior Airman Corey Pitts, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, loads a bag of used linens onto a truck destined for the laundry.

"We have adapted our capabilities and AEF construct to come this far forward and bring capabilities we may never have realized we had before," Chief Clark said. "Our troops are doing that by supplying

security, training, treatment, equipment, infrastructure, communications, instruction, supply, maintenance and sustenance to allow the wing to support the total effort. In addition, we are able to support the efforts directly with our gun truckers, combat engineers, law-and-order detachments and combat mission in our aircraft, both manned and unmanned."

In addition, to learning how to adapt to the war environment Airmen here will have the opportunity enhance other skills.

"Our Airmen will have the chance to exercise a higher level of leadership than they may be used to," Chief Clark said. Airmen will receive satisfaction from accomplishing tasks and objectives they may not get to be involved in back home and see the result from start to finish.

Though many of the Airmen from AEF seven and eight will only be in country for a few months their accomplishments can be lasting.

"I'd like to encourage all of our Airmen to work hard, become part of the Tuskegee legend and support this effort," Chief Clark said. "Write home and tell people what you can about what you have done here. Tell them about the Tuskegee Airmen still working to give the nation state of Iraq back to the people."

Christmas cheer

Team travels to Balad to record holiday greetings

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Though Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines serving in Iraq may not be able to spend the holidays with their families, the Army and Air Force Hometown Newservice Holiday Greeting Team will provide service members the opportunity to send a special holiday message home.

The holiday greeting team is scheduled to visit Balad Air Base and LSA Anaconda Monday through Thursday to record service member's holiday greetings.

Messages will be recorded for all military members regardless of their branch of service.

Greetings will be aired during the holiday season in the service members local communities and hometowns.

Greetings will be recorded at the following locations, specific times for the recordings will be e-mailed to units when they are established:

- ◆ Monday: Camp Anaconda Post Exchange
- ◆ Tuesday: DFAC 1 and Camp Anaconda Post Exchange
- ◆ Wednesday: Army gym and DFAC 3
- ◆ Thursday: Camp Anaconda Post Exchange and H6 recreation tent

For more information about the Army and Air Force Hometown Newservice Holiday Greeting Team's visit, contact the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs office at 443-6005.



Photo by Airman 1st Class **Chad Watkins**

Achieving milestone

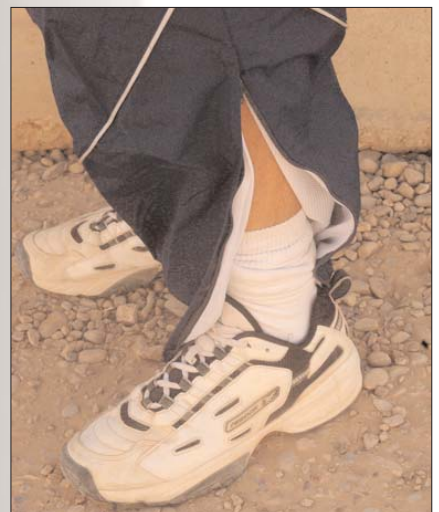
Col. Jeffrey Smiley, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group, is hosed down by Capt. Mark Hanson, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, after completing his 4,000th flying hour Sunday.



When wearing the official Air Force physical training uniform, sweat pants must be zipped (if applicable) at the legs. Sweat pants without zippers will be worn as prescribed with the legs gathered at the ankles and securely fitted at the waist. Guidelines on uniform regulations can be found in 332 AEW 36-2903 section three, [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards].



Right



Wrong

'The God Squad'

Chaplains service provides ministry to Balad Airmen

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Fitz-Patrick
332nd AEW chaplain

Several years ago I had the pleasure of hearing Rabbi Marc Gellman and Father Tom Hartman speak to a group of religious educators meeting in Los Angeles. The two call themselves "The God Squad," and appear regularly on "Good Morning, America," and "Imus in the Morning."

The duo combines humor with theology as they address everyday issues ranging from interfaith marriage to spirituality in the 21st century. Rabbi Gellman and Father Hartman have known each other for many years, and have grown to consider each other brothers.

When someone in the audience asked the Rabbi if he ever felt like Father Tom was trying to convert him, or if he ever tried to convert Father Tom, the Rabbi said, "No, my goal is to help make my friend Tommy the best Catholic he can be."

"And my job is to help make Marc be the best Jew he can be," Father Hartman said.

I believe the philosophy of "The God Squad" sums up the role of the chaplain service in the Air Force, as we strive to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Chaplain (Maj.) David Fitz-Patrick (right) discusses counseling techniques with Staff Sgt. Matthew Wisecarver, Sept. 20. Both are from the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain office. Deployed chaplains conduct religious services and provide counseling to deployed service members.

provide ministry in a pluralistic culture.

The Air Force chaplains and chaplain assistants are deployed here with you to insure you are able to freely practice your

religion, and to help you be the best spiritual person you can be.

If you have any questions about the services we provide please stop by our office.

AEW design contest

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing is holding a mug logo contest. The contest winner will receive a \$25 gift card and a chance for their artwork to be displayed. Designs should be creative however, should not include dates or air expeditionary rotation numbers. Submissions must be turned in to military personnel at the H6 recreation center by Sept. 30. For more information about the contest, contact Staff Sgt. Maria Restrepo at 443-7446.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN
Sundays and Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall Latter Day Saints
Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Liturgical- Protestant
Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel
Samoan Congregational Service
Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Know what this is?



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtail-flyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo of the desert camouflage U.S. Central Command Air Force's patch was first identified by Maj. Christopher Yakabe, 732nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, Detachment 15.

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Senior Airman Matt Franklin

Home station: Hill Air Force Base, Utah

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron recreation specialist

Hobbies: I enjoy working on cars and watching the Oakland Raiders play football.

How do you contribute to the mission?

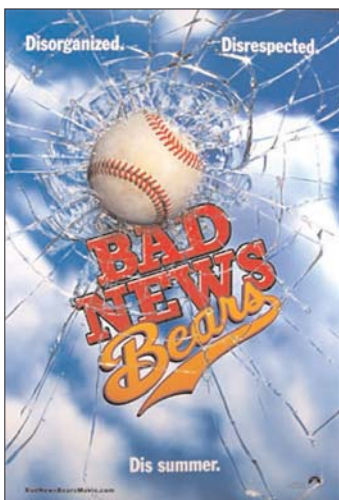
I help provide morale, welfare and recreation activities to the people stationed here.

What is aspect of Balad surprised you the most? I was surprised by the comraderie I have seen between the joint services.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss the mountains.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - Bad News Bears
6 p.m. - Just Like Heaven
9 p.m. - Just Like Heaven

Saturday, Sept. 24

3 p.m. - High Tension
6 p.m. - The Devil's Reject
9 p.m. - Just Like Heaven

Sunday, Sept. 25

3 p.m. - Just Like Heaven
6 p.m. - The Devil's Reject
9 p.m. - Bad News Bears

Monday, Sept. 26

3 p.m. - Just Like Heaven
6 p.m. - Bad News Bears

9 p.m. - High Tension

Tuesday, Sept. 27

3 p.m. - The Devil's Reject
6 p.m. - Just Like Heaven
9 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Wednesday, Sept. 28

3 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
6 p.m. - Just Like Heaven
9 p.m. - The Devil's Reject

Thursday, Sept. 29

3 p.m. - Fantastic Four
6 p.m. - The Devil's Reject
9 p.m. - Bad News Bears

